

## In Congress, May 21, 1776

### IN CONGRESS, MAY 21, 1776.

**RESOLVED, THAT** all persons taken in arms on board any prize, be deemed prisoners, to be taken care of by the supreme executive power in each Colony to which they are brought, whether the prize be taken by vessels fitted out by the Continent, or by others.

That such as are taken be treated as prisoners of war, but with humanity, and be allowed the same rations as the troops in the service of the United Colonies; but that such as are officers supply themselves and be allowed to draw bills to pay for their subsistence and cloathing.

That officers made prisoners in the land service be allowed the same indulgence.

That the officers be not permitted to reside in or near any sea port town, nor public post road, and that the officers and privates be not suffered to reside in the same places.

That in case the officers cannot draw or sell their bills, the Congress will allow for each of them Two Dollars a week, for board and lodgings to be repaid by said officers before they are released from their captivity.

That no tavern keepers supply any officers who are prisoners, on the credit of the Continent.

That the capitulations entered into with prisoners at the time of their surrender be punctually observed.

That such officers as surrender prisoners of war be put on their parole, unless Congress shall otherwise direct.

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That the **FORM** of the **PAROLE** be as follows: I being made a prisoner of war, by the army of the Thirteen United Colonies, in North-America, do promise and engage, on my word and honour, and on the faith of a gentleman, to depart from hence to in the province of being the place of my destination and residence, and there, or within six miles thereof, to remain during the present war between Great-Britain and the said United Colonies, or until the Congress of the said United Colonies, or the Assembly, Convention, or Committee or Council of Safety of the said Colony shall order otherwise; and that I will not directly or indirectly give any intelligence whatsoever to the enemies of the United Colonies, or do or say anything in opposition to, or in prejudice of the measures and proceedings of any Congress for the said Colonies during the present troubles, or until I am duly exchanged or discharged. Given under my hand, this day of A.D. 1776.

That the said Parole be signed by the officers.

That such as refuse to subscribe the parole be committed to prison.

That David Franks, Esq; Agent to the contractors for victualling the troops of the King of Great Britain, be permitted to supply the prisoners with provisions and other necessaries, and to sell his bills for such sums of money as are necessary for that purpose.

And to enable him to do this to the satisfaction of his employers, that a commissioned officer be permitted once a month to visit the prisoners to victualled and supplied, in order to count their numbers and certify the rolls.

That such of the prisoners as are not supplied by Mr. Franks, be furnished with provisions not exceeding the rations allowed to privates in the service of the Continent.

That the women and children belonging to prisoners be furnished with subsistence and supplied with firing and other things absolutely necessary for their support.

That no prisoners be inlisted in the Continental Army.

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That the prisoners be permitted to exercise their trades and to labour in order to support themselves and families.

That the Committee of Inspection and Observation, for the counties, districts or towns, assigned for the residence of prisoners, be empowered to superintend their conduct, and in cases of gross misbehaviour to confine them, and report to their respective Assemblies, Convention or Committees or Council of Safety the proceedings had on such occasions.

That a list of the prisoners in each Colony be made out by the Committees of the counties, towns or districts where they reside, and transmitted to the Assembly, Convention, or Council or Committee of Safety of such Colony respectively, who shall send a copy thereof to Congress.

That the said Assemblies, Conventions, and Committees or Councils of Safety be empowered to contract with proper persons for the most reasonable terms for supplying such of the prisoners, their wives and children, in their respective Colony as are not supplied by Mr. Frank.

That the said Assemblies, Conventions, and Committees or Councils of Safety, be authorized and requested to take the paroles of the officers, and to cause a strict observance of the terms on which they are enlarged, and also to take special care that none of those confined by order of the Congress, be suffered to escape; also to advance the allowance of Two Dollars a week to each of the officers who cannot draw or sell their bills and to draw for the same on the President of the Congress.

That the said Assemblies, Conventions, Committees or Councils of Safety of the Colonies respectively in which prisoners are or shall chuse or be appointed to reside, be empowered to remove such prisoners from place to place within the same Colonies, as often as to such Assemblies, Conventions, Committees or Councils of Safety it shall seem proper, having regard to the former resolutions of Congress concerning prisoners.

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*Extract from the Minutes, published by Order of Congress, **CHARLES THOMSON,***  
**SECRETARY.**